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Honorable Guy Guzzone
Chair, Senate Budget and Taxation Committee
3 West, Miller Senate Office Building
Annapolis, Maryland 21401

Dear Senator Guzzone:

YMCA of Cumberland, MD would like to express our strong support for Senate Bill 874, which would establish Community Safety Works as an ongoing program within the Maryland Department of Housing and Community Development. Established as a budget initiative within the Department, Community Safety Works has already provided valuable assistance to nonprofit organizations, businesses and local governments through targeted investments in crime prevention that impact community safety.

The funding we received from the Community Safety Grant in 2022 was appreciated far more than any words will convene. We were able to address 14 safety concerns at our location that serves over 20,000 patrons annually. Some highlights of upgrades include:

- a locked door security system with camera monitoring access for our child care center,
- sight-line enhancements at a cross-walk area, and
- removal of large trees and thick brush to install clean ground cover on over 3,000 square feet around the playground, pavilion, and community member access areas.

Future funding would make additional upgrades to enhance camera security to meet specifics of HR 5515. Our other location is situated in an area prone to crime where we are able to assist the City of Cumberland Police Department, however sometimes our footage is not adequate to capture everything that is needed. Funding from Community Safety Works would also allow for additional lighting in areas that are dark helping to prevent future crime and allowing for quality images to be captured via security cameras. All Maryland communities should have adequate safety and security measures in place to be safe in the place we call home.

Again, this is to request a favorable report on SB874 to continue this valuable program. Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,

Julie O'Neal

CEO, YMCA of Cumberland Maryland